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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,800	09/10/2003	Robert V. Farese JR.	UCAL-105CIP2CON2	7565
24353	7590	06/12/2006	EXAMINER	
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP 1900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SUITE 200 EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303			WHITEMAN, BRIAN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1635	

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/659,800	FARESE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brian Whiteman	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 41-47 and 66-69 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 42-44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 41,45-47 and 66-69 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/1/04, 4/19/04, 9/10/03, 5/17/06

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Non-Final Rejection

Claims 41-47 and 66-69 are pending.

The examiner of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be to directed to Brian Whiteman, Art Unit 1635.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group II (claims 41, 45-47, 66-69 in the reply filed on 5/1/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that it would not be an undue burden on the examiner to perform a search on all of the claims together. This is not found persuasive because other than applicant's assertion, applicant does address the reason set forth in the election/restriction for why it would be an undue burden on the examiner to search and examine all of the claims.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 42-44 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 5/1/06.

Priority

The status of the parent application needs updated.

Information Disclosure Statement

The examiner has considered the European Search Report.

Claim Objections

Claim 47 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim is missing a period at the end of the sentence. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 41, 45-47, and 66-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant is also referred to the Guidelines on Written Description published at FR 66(4) 1099-1111 (January 5, 2001) (also available at www.uspto.gov). The following passage is particularly relevant.

The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant identifying characteristics, i.e. structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between structure and function structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus. A "representative number of species" means that the species which are adequately described are representative of the entire genus. Thus, when there is substantial variation within a genus, one must describe a sufficient number of species to reflect the variation within the genus. What constitutes a "representative number" is an inverse function of the skill and knowledge in the art. Satisfactory disclosure of a "representative number" depends on whether one of skill in the art would recognize that applicant was in possession of the necessary common attributes or features of the elements possessed by the members of the genus in view of the species disclosed. In an unpredictable art, adequate written

description of a genus which embraces widely variant species cannot be achieved by disclosing only one species within the genus.

The invention of the above claims is drawn to an agent that modulates (decreasing) DGAT activity and to methods and treatments using said agent. More specifically, the claims are drawn to decreasing DGAT activity using a genus of agents (e.g., antisense molecule).

The recitation in instant claims 41, 45, and 66 (and claims dependent therefrom) identifies an agent (antisense molecule) active in modulating (decreasing) DGAT in name only. Such language is interpreted broadly to include any agent or other molecule having activity reasonably similar to the antisense molecule that inhibits DGAT activity. As outlined in the Guidelines on Written Description above, in order to possess the genus of agents that targets DGAT, a representative number of species that adequately describe the genus as claimed must be disclosed. With respect to antisense molecules that decrease DGAT activity, in order to possess the genus of antisense molecules that targets DGAT encompasses any species, or any allele, variant, or other molecule having the activity attributed to an antisense molecule of DGAT, a representative number of species that adequately describe the genus as claimed must be disclosed, particularly because knowledge of the exact target sequence to be targeted is critical for construction of the genus of agents that are presently claimed. However, the specification describes only antisense molecules that inhibit human and mouse DGAT. No other agents or antisense molecules having the desired activity are disclosed that might help one of ordinary skill to envision the genus of agents and/or antisense molecules that target DGAT as claimed. The limitation in instant claims 41, 45-47, and 66 indicates that the genus is broader than agents that modulate (decrease) DGAT and/or antisense molecules that hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding DGAT. It is apparent that on the basis of

applicant's disclosure, an adequate written description of the invention defined by the claims requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to potential methods that are essential for the genus of agents and/or antisense molecules as claimed; what is required is the knowledge in the prior art and/or a description as to the availability of a representative number of species of agents and/or antisense molecules that must exhibit the disclosed biological functions as contemplated by the claims.

Because the specification does not include a representative sample of agents that modulate (decrease) DGAT activity and/or antisense molecules that decrease DGAT activity as described above, a person of skill in the art would conclude that applicant was not in possession of the invention as recited. The specification thus does not provide adequate written support for a genus of agents and/or antisense molecules that are heretofore undescribed.

It is not sufficient to contemplate a genus of agents that modulate (decrease) DGAT activity and/or antisense molecules that inhibit DGAT activity in mammalian cells to support the present claimed invention directed to a genus of agents. The claimed invention as a whole is not adequately described if the claims require essential or critical elements, which are not adequately described in the specification and which is not conventional in the art as of applicant's effective filing date. Claiming a genus of agents and/or antisense molecules that must possess the biological properties as contemplated by applicant's disclosure without defining what means will do so is not in compliance with the written description requirement. Rather, it is an attempt to preempt the future before it has arrived. (See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601 (CA FC 1993) and *Regents of the Univ. Calif. v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (CA FC, 1997)). Possession may be shown by actual reduction to practice, clear depiction of the invention in a detailed drawing,

or by describing the invention with sufficient relevant identifying characteristics such that a person skilled in the art would recognize that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. Pfaff v. Wells Electronics, Inc., 48 USPQ2d 1641, 1646 (1998). The skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed structure of a genus of agents and/or antisense molecules that must exhibit the contemplated biological functions, and therefore, conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the structures and/or methods disclosed in the as-filed specification. Thus, in view of the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not have recognized that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention as presently claimed.

Claims 41, 45-47, and 66-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation have been summarized in In re Wands, 858 F.2d 731, 8USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). They include (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The above invention is drawn to methods of inhibiting the expression of a DGAT activity in cells using an agent (antisense molecules). The specification contemplates antisense-mediated inhibition of DGAT activity. In view of the specification, one skilled in the art would reasonably determine that the only use for the claimed method would be for treating a DGAT disorder (obesity or hypertriglycerolemia) in a mammal by inhibiting DGAT activity in a mammalian cell.

The test of enablement is whether one skilled in the art could make and use the claimed invention from the disclosures in the application coupled with information known in the art without undue experimentation (United States v. Technologies Inc., 8 USPQ2d 1217 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Whether undue experimentation is required is not based upon a single factor, but rather a conclusion reached by many factors. These factors were outlined in *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1986) and again in *In Re Wands* (see above).

The specification as filed does not provide any guidance or examples that would enable a skilled artisan to use the disclosed compounds or methods of using said compounds in *in vivo* environments. Additionally, a person skilled in the art would recognize that predicting the efficacy of an antisense molecule *in vivo* based solely on its contemplation in the specification is highly problematic. Thus, although the specification prophetically considers and discloses general methodologies of using the claimed constructs *in vivo* or in methods of inhibition or treatment, such a disclosure would not be considered enabling since the state of antisense-mediated gene inhibition is highly unpredictable.

The following references are cited herein to illustrate the state of the art of antisense treatment.

An (2002) article by Braasch et al. opens by emphasizing that major obstacles persist in the art: “gene inhibition by antisense oligomers has not proven to be a robust or generally reliable technology. Many researchers are skeptical about the approach, and it has been suggested that many published studies are at least partially unreliable” (Pg. 4503). Braasch et al. goes on to identify factors that contribute to the unpredictable efficacy of antisense compounds *in vivo*: poor antisense oligonucleotide access to sites within the mRNA to be targeted, difficulties with delivery to and uptake by cells of the antisense oligos, toxicity and

immunological problems caused by antisense oligos, and artifacts created by unpredictable binding of antisense compounds to systemic and cellular proteins.

Regarding the difficulties of predicting whether antisense oligonucleotides can access sites within their target mRNA, Braasch et al. explains, “it has been difficult to identify oligonucleotides that act as potent inhibitors of gene expression, primarily due to difficulties in predicting the secondary structures of RNA (Pg. 4503). Branch adds that “internal structures of target RNAs and their associations with cellular proteins create physical barriers, which render most potential binding sites inaccessible to antisense molecules” (Page 45). Additionally, in a review of the potential use of antisense oligos as therapeutic agents, Gewirtz et al. teach that the inhibitory activity of an oligo depends unpredictably on the sequence and structure of the nucleic acid target site and the ability of the oligo to reach its target (Page 3161).

The uptake of oligonucleotides by cells has been addressed by Agrawal, who states, “[o]ligonucleotides must be taken up by cells in order to be effective....several reports have shown that efficient uptake of oligonucleotides occurs in a variety of cell lines, including primary cells whereas other reports indicate negligible cellular uptake of oligonucleotides. Cellular uptake of oligonucleotides is complex process; it depends on many factors, including the cell type, the stage of the cell cycle, the concentration of serum. It is therefore, difficult to generalize that all oligonucleotides are taken up in all cells with the same efficiency” (Page 378). “[M]icroinjection or using lipid carriers to supply an oligonucleotide in cell culture increases the potency of the oligonucleotide in cell culture, but it is not clear how relevant this approach is for *in vivo* situations.” (Page 379).

Braasch et al. discusses the non-specific toxicity effects of *in vivo* antisense administration; “even when active oligomers are discovered, the difference in oligonucleotide dose required to inhibit expression is often not much different than doses that lead to nonselective toxicity and cell death...oligonucleotides can bind to proteins and produce artifactual phenotypes that obscure effects due to the intended antisense mechanism” (Pg. 4503). Branch affirms that “non-antisense effects are not currently predictable, rules for rational design cannot be applied to the production of non-antisense drugs, These effects must be explored on a case by case basis” (Page 50), while Tamm et al. states that “[i]mmune stimulation is widely recognized as an undesirable side-effect...the immunostimulatory activity of a phosphorothioate-modified oligonucleotide is largely unpredictable and has to be ascertained experimentally” (page 493).

Further, Branch reasons that, “the value of a potential antisense drug can only be judged after its intended clinical use is known, and quantitative information about its dose-response curves and therapeutic index is available” (Page 46). Tamm et al. concludes by stating that until “the therapeutic activity of an antisense oligonucleotide is defined by the antisense sequence, and thus is to some extent predictable...antisense will not be better than other drug development strategies, most of which depend on an empirical approach.”

The specification of the instant application fails to provide adequate guidance for one of skill in the art to overcome the unpredictability and challenges of applying results from contemplating reducing the symptom in a mammalian host of a disease condition associated with DGAT activity to the *in vivo* treatment of disease (obesity), or *in vivo* methods of inhibition, as exemplified in the references above.

Further, one skilled in the art would not accept on its face the examples given in the specification of the as being correlative or representative of the successful *in vivo* use of antisense compounds or treatment of conditions or diseases suspected of being associated with DGAT expression in mammalian cells. This is particularly true in view of the lack of guidance in the specification and known unpredictability associated with the efficacy of antisense in treating or preventing any conditions or disease suspected of being associated with a particular target gene *in vivo*. The specification as filed fails to provide any particular guidance which resolves the known unpredictability in the art associated with appropriate *in vivo* delivery and treatment effects provided by antisense administered, and specifically regarding the instant compositions and methods claimed.

Said claims are drawn very broadly to molecules and methods of treating a condition or disease suspected of being associated with DGAT expression in mammals. The quantity of undue experimentation required to practice the invention as claimed *in vivo* would require the *de novo* determination of formulations with low toxicity and immunogenicity that are successfully delivered, and most importantly, that target sites in appropriate cells and/or tissues harboring DGAT expression such that all harmful expression is inhibited, that healthy expression is appropriately permitted *in vivo*, and further, that treatment and/or preventive effects are provided for any and/or all diseases or conditions suspected of being associated with DGAT expression *in vivo*. Since the specification fails to provide any guidance for the successful treatment of a genus of diseases or conditions suspected of being associated with DGAT expression in mammals, or their tissues or cells, and since determination of these factors for a particular target gene in a

mammal is highly unpredictable, one of ordinary skill in the art would be unable to practice the invention as presented in the specification over the scope claimed.

Furthermore, the instant specification fails to provide one of skill in the art guidance for the selection of pharmaceutical oligo compounds without engaging in undue trial and error experimentation since it is clear from the references above that in vitro and cellular screening do not correlate with pharmaceutical oligo compounds that function in an *in vivo* environment. The specification in general fails to provide adequate guidance to overcome the obstacles and unpredictability of oligo therapy that are exemplified in the references above.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 69 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "at least about" in claim 69 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "at least about" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The metes and bounds of the term are not defined because it is not clear if the amino acid has to be at least 90% or about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 6.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 41, 45-46, and 66-69 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 9-11, 13, 14, and 17-19 of copending Application No. 10/278,733. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both set of claims are directed to inhibiting diacylglycerol O-acyltransferase activity using an agent that inhibits the DGAT. In addition, both methods embrace a human DAGAT protein and treating hypertriglyceridemia. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would consider the claims from '733 an obvious variant of the instant claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 41, 45, 46, 47, 66, and 68 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16, 25-27 and 29-30 of copending Application No. 10/446,441. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both set of claims are directed to inhibiting diacylglycerol O-acyltransferase activity using an agent that inhibits the DGAT. In addition, both methods embrace a human DAGAT protein and treating obesity. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would consider the claims from '441 an obvious variant of the instant claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 41, 45, 46, 47, 66, and 68 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 16, 25-27, 29-30 of commonly assigned US application 10/446,441. Specifically, for the same reasons as set forth under the odp rejection over '441.

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Claims 41, 45, 46, and 66-~~68~~⁶⁹ are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 1, 9-11, 13, 14, and 17-19 of commonly assigned US application 10/278,733. Specifically, for the same reasons as set forth under the odp rejection over '733.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office normally will not institute an interference between applications or a patent and an application of common ownership (see MPEP Chapter 2300). Commonly assigned US application, discussed above, would form the basis for a rejection of the noted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) if the commonly assigned case qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) and the conflicting inventions were not commonly owned at the time

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the invention in this application was made. In order for the examiner to resolve this issue, the assignee can, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(c), either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g), or 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for applications pending on or after December 10, 2004.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Whiteman whose telephone number is (571) 272-0764. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 4:00 (Eastern Standard Time), with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Paras, SPE – Art Unit 1635, can be reached at (571) 272-4517.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Fax Center number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST).

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The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Brian Whiteman

Brian Whiteman
BRIAN WHITEMAN
PATENT EXAMINER